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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02438 011801Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2438

EXDIS

FOR NIMETZ, VEST AND BARBOUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJ: TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS: REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE

REF: ANKARA 2436

1. HALUK OZGUL CALLED ME FROM MFA LATE THIS AFTERNOON TO SAY THAT PRIME MINISTER WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT "MONDALE STATEMENT" AND WISHED ME TO SEND AN IMMEDIATE MESSAGE TO YOU AND TO DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER ABOUT IT. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD ALREADY REPORTED THE HURRIYET (TURKEY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER) STORY (REFTEL) BASED ON AN ALLEGED INTERVIEW WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT THAT HAD APPEARED IN THE GREEK PAPER AKROPOLIS. I ALSO SAID THAT I HAD BEEN INFORMED THIS MORNING BY THE MFA DUTY OFFICER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONCERN AND I HAD REPORTED IT TO WASHINGTON WITH A REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION. I ADDED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO STOP REFERRING TO A "MONDALE STATEMENT" SINCE IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT WHATEVER THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS SAID HAD BEEN OFF-THE-CUFF TO A REPORTER, WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, AND WAS BEING FILTERED THROUGH GREEK EYES.

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2. OZGUL REPLIED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS PARTICULARLY EMBARASSASSED BECAUSE HE HAD JUST MADE AN OPTIMISTIC PUBLIC STATMENT YESTERDAY IN WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED HIS TALKS WITH MR CHRISTOPHER AS "CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL." THEN OBVIOUSLY READING FROM NOTES HE SAID "THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER

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ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AND DISTURBED ABOUT THE RECENT STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WHICH CONTRADICTS WHAT MR CHRISTOPHER TOLD THEM IN ANKARA DURING VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL TALKS. MR MONDALE, WHO MR CHRISTOPHER SAID WAS PRESENT WHEN THE HIGH LEVEL DECISIONS HE CONVEYED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WERE MADE, IS NOW REPORTED TO HAVE SAID AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT THE EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED IN RESPONSE TO EVENTS ON CYRPUS AND WILL NOT BE LIFTED UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. THE PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS THAT THE USG ISSUE EITHER A DENIAL OR AN APPROPRIATE CLARIFICATION OF MR MONDALE'S STATEMENT."

3. I TOLD OZGUL I WOULD IMMEDIATELY TRANSMIT THE PRIMIN'S MESSAGE. I ALSO ASKED HIM IF HE KNEW OF ANY SOURCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OTHER THAN THE AKROPLIS ARTICLE. HE SAID HE DID NOT.
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